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HISTORY
OF
STEUBEN COUNTY,
INDIANA,

TOGETHER WITH SKETCHES OF ITS CITIES, VILLAGES AND TOWNS,
EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, CIVIL, MILITARY, AND POLITICAL
HISTORY, PORTRAITS OF PROMINENT PERSONS, AND
BIOGRAPHIES OF REPRESENTATIVE CITIZENS.

ALSO A CONDENSED

HISTORY OF INDIANA,

EMBODYING ACCOUNTS OF PREHISTORIC RACES, ABORIGINES, WINNE-
BAGO AND BLACK HAWK WARS, AND A BRIEF REVIEW OF ITS
CIVIL AND POLITICAL HISTORY.

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PREFACE.

Although Indiana, which has been styled the Eden of the new world, is destined in her strides to empire to become one of the first States of the Union, her history has been strangely neglected. Fragments have been written at different times, but only of detached periods and embracing but a small part of the century and a half which has elapsed since the first explorations. To supply this deficiency and furnish a history commensurate with her present advancement in power and civilization, it is necessary that the different localities in the State do their respective shares in compiling the material from which a suitable work may sooner or later be made up.

To do this work for Steuben County, and furnish a history that may be of interest to the present generation, and of increasing value to those yet unborn, has been the aim of the publishers of this volume. In presenting it to subscribers, confidence is felt that it will meet with a cordial reception. No trouble nor expense has been spared to make it a complete and reliable history, and any errors or inaccuracies it may contain are due to the inability of the compilers to obtain the necessary information.

Perfection is not claimed for the book, for "to err is human;" and although scrupulous care has been observed, there is no doubt that the critic will find something to fill his hungry soul with delight. Thanks are due to the editors of the *Republican* and *Herald* for courtesies extended; to all the county officers, for innumerable favors; to public societies and churches for data furnished; and to the citizens generally for their ready co-operation and the interest they have taken. It has been our aim to give at least the name, if not more extended notice, of every "old pioneer," and if any are omitted, it is owing to the

PREFACE

slight importance placed on the preservation of records in the early days of our history, and failure on the part of those having the knowledge to impart it to the compiler. In the spelling of proper names, we have found in this as in other counties that members of a family disagree; and where such is the case, who shall decide? In the personal sketches we of course "followed copy," but in the general history we have tried to give the preference to the forms used by the majority. Also, members of the same family differ often as to dates and places. In public records, too, we have found a single name spelled no less than twelve different ways.

The desire expressed by many citizens for an outline history of Indiana induced us to add that feature to our prospectus, and we have accordingly prepared a history which we are willing to have compared with any yet published. But a review of the contents of this volume is not necessary. Our readers must be the judges of its value. We trust they will pronounce as their verdict that the book is not one to be read to day and then laid on the shelf; that, as other sources of information diminish, it will stand as a monument to tell to coming generations the noble part their forefathers took in the settlement of the grand State of Indiana, and the beautiful little county of Steuben.

THE PUBLISHERS.

CHICAGO, *September*, 1885.

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HISTORY OF INDIANA.

FORMER OCCUPANTS.

PREHISTORIC RACES.

Scientists have ascribed to the Mound Builders varied origins, and though their divergence of opinion may for a time seem incompatible with a thorough investigation of the subject, and tend to a confusion of ideas, no doubt whatever can exist as to the comparative accuracy of conclusions arrived at by some of them. Like the vexed question of the Pillar Towers of Ireland, it has caused much speculation, and elicited the opinions of so many learned antiquarians, ethnologists and travelers, that it will not be found beyond the range of possibility to make deductions that may suffice to solve the problem who were the prehistoric settlers of America. To achieve this it will not be necessary to go beyond the period over which Scripture history extends, or to indulge in those airy flights of imagination so sadly identified with occasional writers of even the Christian school, and all the accepted literary exponents of modern paganism.

That this continent is co-existent with the world of the ancients cannot be questioned. Every investigation, instituted under the auspices of modern civilization, confirms the fact and leaves no channel open through which the skeptic can escape the thorough refutation of his opinions. China, with its numerous living testimonials of antiquity, with its ancient, though limited literature and its Babelish superstitions, claims a continuous history from antediluvian times; but although its continuity may be denied with every just reason, there is nothing to prevent the transmission of a hieroglyphic record of its history prior to 1656 *anno mundi*, since many traces of its early settlement survived the Deluge, and became sacred objects of the first historical epoch. This very survival of a record, such as that of which the Chinese boast, is not at variance with the designs of a God who made and ruled the universe; but that an antediluvian people inhabited this continent.